

Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of determining whether an encoded signal [(4)] has been encoded with a particular type of encoder [(21)], the method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving at least a part of said encoded signal;
 - 5 decoding [(11)] the received signal using a decoder which performs the reverse operation of said particular type of encoder;
 - deriving a fingerprint [(12)] from the decoded signal;
 - comparing [(13)] said fingerprint with fingerprints stored in a database [(14)]; and
 - 10 concluding that the encoded signal has been encoded with said particular type of encoder if the derived fingerprint corresponds to one of the fingerprints stored in the database.
2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said steps are performed by a server [(1)] which receives the encoded signal from a client [(2)] through a network [(3)].
3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of:
 - awarding [(22)] the client if the server concluded that the received encoded signal has been encoded with said particular type of encoder.
4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said step of awarding comprises:
 - retrieving from the database metadata associated with the signal, and
 - transmitting said metadata to the client.
- 5-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising a computer readable medium, such as a memory, which stores ~~storing~~ a set of instructions and a processor which executes ~~executing~~ the set of instructions, the set of instructions being operable to control the processor to:

- 5 receive at least a part of said encoded signal;
 decode ~~[(11)]~~ the received signal using a decoder which performs ~~[(the)]~~
 a reverse operation of said particular type of encoder;
 derive a fingerprint (12) from the decoded signal;
 compare (13) said fingerprint with fingerprints stored in a database (14);
10 and
 ~~conclude that~~ determine whether the encoded signal has been encoded
 with said particular type of encoder ~~[(if)]~~ by determining whether the derived
 fingerprint corresponds to one of the fingerprints ~~stores~~ stored in the database.

9. (New) A server which receives via a network files encoded by a client, the server station comprising:

- a server configured to receive encoded files from the client through a network, the server comprising:
5 a decoder configured to decode the encoded files received from the client;
 a fingerprint extraction unit configured to extract a fingerprint from a decoded file;
 a database configured to store one or more fingerprints identifying
 respective structures of encoded files that correspond to the decoder of the server; and
10 a processor configured to compare the extracted fingerprint from the
 decoded file with the one or more fingerprints stored in the database and determine
 whether the extracted fingerprint corresponds to one of the fingerprints stored in the
 database.

10. (New) The server as claimed in claim 9, wherein in response to the server concluding that the received encoded files have been encoded with an

encoder that corresponds to the decoder of the server, the processor communicates an award to the client.

11. (New) The server as claimed in claim 10, wherein the award includes metadata associated with the encoded file transmitted from the database of the server to the client.

12. (New) The server as claimed in claim 9, wherein in response to the server concluding that the extracted fingerprint was not found in the database, the processor transmits a message to the client.

13. (New) The server as claimed in claim 12, wherein in response to the extracted fingerprint not being stored in the database, the processor sends a request to the client to resend the encoded file.

14. (New) The server as claimed in claim 9, wherein the fingerprint is a bit pattern indicative of robust perceptually features of encoded files.

15. (New) The server as claimed in claim 9, further including:
a plurality of client encoders; and
a network which connects the client encoders and the server.